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Congressman Jackson Cannot Believe Despicable Deeds at Cemetery

Congressman Jesse L. Jackson Jr. today expressed his disbelief and outrage over news reports about bodies being removed from graves and destroyed at a cemetery in south suburban Alsip. Jackson issued the following statement:

"The criminally ghoulish activities of grave robbers at Burr Oak Cemetery are so abhorrent and morbid as to be almost unimaginable.

"It is hard to believe that human beings could be so disrespectful of others. Moreover, it is inconceivable that anyone could be so callous and greedy as to desecrate the original casket of Emmett Till and then pocket money donated for a proposed memorial in his honor.

"I cannot fully express my outrage – indeed disbelief – over these despicable deeds.

"My heart goes out to the families and friends whose loved ones have been disturbed and destroyed at Burr Oak. And, I pray that their loved ones will soon return to rest with the honor and sanctity they deserve," Jackson said.

The congressman added: "I commend and thank law enforcement officials – including Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, Cook County State's Attorney Anita Alvarez, State Comptroller Dan Hynes, Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, and the FBI – as they conduct a thorough yet dignified investigation.

"I also thank the citizens and whistle-blowers who initially reported suspicious activities at the cemetery, which led to this gruesome discovery and subsequent criminal investigation."

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